



NEWS RELEASE

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Porter Ranch Man Pleads to 2013 Murder of Live-In Girlfriend

A 45-year-old man entered a no contest plea today for the shooting death of his live-in girlfriend near the Porter Ranch house they shared, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Julie Kramer said Joseph Defalco (dob 7/16/70) pleaded to one count of second-degree murder and admitted using a firearm in case PA077259.

Defalco will face a 25 years-to-life prison sentence on Mar. 7 in Department N of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch.

On June 14, 2013, the defendant shot Ann Risa Suggs, 52, twice in the head and then shot himself before retreating to their residence on the 19000 block of Kenya Street, the prosecutor said. After a standoff with police of over five hours, Defalco was arrested and treated for his injuries, the prosecutor added.

According to evidence presented at the preliminary hearing, the defendant and the victim had dated for approximately 20 years and lived together for more than two years when the murder occurred.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Devonshire Station.

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[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.